

# A Murder, A Goldrush, and a Cariboo

---

Zaho

Zaho Zai Gong wanted to make money, after missing the California gold rush due to illness that almost killed him, finding gold, but then getting mugged during the Fraser River gold rush in 1859 he was ready for change. So when news of the Cariboo gold rush broke he decided to take a different approach and become a shopkeeper. He packed his clothes and spent all of his money purchasing goods to sell and buying a plot of land in Barkerville. Which he had heard was the hub of the Cariboo gold rush. Arriving in late October of 1861 lots of people were coming and going. However, no one bought from his shop and he suspected why. For the same reason he was mugged during the Fraser gold rush. He was Chinese. "Ugh" says Zaho "I'll never make any money" and that was true till about 1862 when a huge rush of Chinese miners arrived creating a small but tight-knit Chinese community. Zaho soon had plenty of customers

Zaho

Zaho on his way out for a drink with his good friend Ah Bua sees two white men harassing a new Chinese miner. He deciding to step in. Gets between the two men and the miner "Hey fellas we ain't having any problems here are we?" He asks. " yea" replies one of the men "you and your people clogging up the mines". The other man snickers but says nothing. Well Zaho retorts sounding angry now. "Nobody wants you here either so scram" " what did you just say to us" the second miner asks Zaho. Who looks down and in that spilt second is punched in the face so hard that he spins around and falls flat on his face. "Get outta here" the second white miner says before they both spit on him and walk away laughing.

Zaho

After the incident Zaho feels anger and resentment towards everybody who's ever treated him like that. Every time he goes to bed he dreams he's punching every one of them in the face. However Zaho has to table these thoughts when his good friend, Ah Bua, passes away. Ah Bua was a friend of most people and his passing was sad for most of the town. As Zaho leaves for the funeral, the same two men yell and jeer at him while he's leaving his store

James

James laughed as the old Asian man left his store all dressed up. "Where you going" he cried " To the stupid outfit convention?" He laughed then elbowed the man next to him Cage who promptly burst into laughter. The man didn't look up and just kept walking. Once he was out of sight James looks to Cage and says hey, let's rob this idiot. Cage nods and grabs a near by rock.

Zaho

Zaho returning from the funeral sees his store broken into and immediately knows it was those two men "Those jerks" he growls he grabs a shovel out from the storage and goes out to find the two men. He spots them in a bar and waits hiding in an alley till they leave before trailing them. Rain begins to fall Zaho still dressed in his black clothes approaches them like a shadow in the night. Raising the shovel above his head he whispers "remember me?" Before cracking down on Cage's head before either of them can turn around. James yelps in fear and tries to run but drunk and tired. He's wrestled to the ground and gets his face smashed in with a shovel. The air is still and quiet except for the patter of rain Zaho falls to his knees crying "what have I done" before steeling his resolve. Taking a deep breath he pulls himself up and begins to dig two graves says a quick pray for both Cage and James. Before taking his stuff back and returning to his shop.

Zaho

Years pass and the Cariboo gold rush ends and Zaho packs up his shop one last time. He looks out at the rising sun and sighs before visiting James and Cage's white graves once more as he has done for the last 6 years. He whispers " I'm sorry" one final time before turning around and walking away.